

UTIA MAGAZINE

THE UNIVERSITY OF
TEXAS AT ARLINGTON

Building Momentum

New residence hall, new programs,
new alliances. . . ***New Outlook***

PLUS: Student Eddie McGee
wins *Big Brother* grand prize

6 Everybody's big brother

By Glen Golightly

Persistence—88 days worth—paid dividends for broadcast communication junior Eddie McGee as he captured the \$500,000 grand prize on the CBS reality show *Big Brother* in September. But don't let the tough-talking New York native fool you; he's actually a kindhearted fellow.

Building momentum

Text by Sherry Wodraska Neaves and Mark Permenter

Photographs by Joel Quintans and Robert Crosby

10 Arlington Hall: Views from home

Arlington Hall, the first residence hall built on campus in more than 35 years, opened in August at nearly 100 percent occupancy. With amenities that would make many hotels envious, the 600-bed facility is drawing rave reviews from students.

16 The changing face of campus

A photo essay captures some of the other physical changes that are turning the campus into a more inviting place to live, work and learn.

18 First impressions

Launched last fall, Welcome Week is one facet of a comprehensive effort to enhance the first-year experience for freshmen and transfer students.

20 A matter of degrees

A master of music education, accelerated M.B.A. and athletic training program are just three of the new academic offerings UTA has instituted in the past year.

22 Blurring the boundaries

Recent alliances with area colleges and universities are extending UTA's influence throughout the Metroplex and beyond.

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By Sherry Wodraska Neaves

Eight Texas lawmakers, all former UTA students, weigh in on issues facing the 77th Legislature.

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3 CAMPUS BUZZ Enrollment surges; Mapsco makes a donation; and UTA receives a top-tier ranking from the Carnegie Foundation.

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32 ALUMNI NOTEBOOK Meet the new Alumni Association director; read about this year's Military Science Hall of Honor inductees; see what's in store for Homecoming 2001; and catch up with your former classmates.

39 ANNUAL GIFT REPORT A special thanks to the approximately 4,500 individuals, corporations and foundations that contributed more than \$9 million to enhance hundreds of undergraduate, graduate and research programs offered on campus and via distance education.

IBC YESTERYEAR Recent construction on campus brings back memories of the building boom of the 1970s and 1980s.

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Students, alumni compete in 2000 Paralympics

UTA students and alumni represented the United States, Sweden, Australia and Mexico at the Paralympic Games, Oct. 18-29 in Sydney, Australia.

The Paralympics have been held every four years, just after the traditional Summer Games, since 1960.

In the 2000 Games, **Randy Snow** ('85) and **Stephen Welch** ('92) represented the United States in the tennis competition. Snow was eliminated in the third round, losing to eventual gold-medal winner David Hall of Australia. Welch advanced to the men's final against Hall, where he won the first set 7-6 (7-3) but lost the next two, 6-4, 6-2. Welch came home with a second silver medal, repeating his finish from the 1996 Atlanta Games.

Cezar Olivas ('99) played on the Mexican basketball team, which finished in 10th place. **Enoch Ablorh** ('00) played for the Swedish team, which finished seventh, and **Brad Ness** ('00) played for the Australians, who took fifth place.

Willie Hernandez ('94) joined current students **Paul Schulte**, a junior, and freshman **Steven Tew** on the bronze medal-winning U.S. basketball team. In the bronze medal game, Schulte hit a three-pointer from 24 feet in the final seconds to give the United States a 57-54 victory over Great Britain.

Schulte led team USA with 14 points in the game, which was played before more than 17,000, the largest crowd ever to attend a wheelchair basketball event.

The road to the bronze medal was sometimes difficult for the U.S. squad, which recorded four wins and a loss in the preliminary round, then defeated Australia in the quarterfinals in front of a

partisan Aussie crowd. The Americans then lost to the eventual silver medal team, the Netherlands, in the semifinals.

Women win SLC cross country title

Led by second-place finisher **Rebecca Johansson**, the women's team won the Southland Conference Cross Country Championships last fall in Nacogdoches.

Johansson, a sophomore from Sweden, ran the 5,000-meter course in a personal-best 17 minutes, 52.8 seconds—17 seconds off the first-place time of McNeese State's Sita Waru. UTA's **Kajsa Haglund** finished fourth overall in 18 minutes, 12.89 seconds.

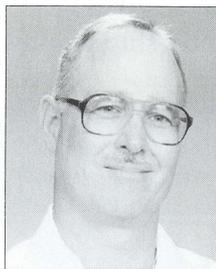
One of the keys to the team victory was the strong showing of the Lady Mavericks' third, fourth and fifth runners. **Melissa Corlett** finished 12th, **Deborah McGowan** 18th and **Camilla Dahlin** 25th in the 75-runner field.

"Those three ran their best races of the year," said coach **John Sauerhage**. "We talked the week before about somebody stepping up and being a hero. Basically, every one of them responded with that type of effort."

The SLC title was the first for the women since 1997.

In the men's competition, UTA placed three runners in the top 10 but still finished second to McNeese State.

"These guys ran heroically," Sauerhage said. "We were one man away from sweeping. I'm optimistic that we can sweep the men's and women's titles next year."



Larry Dowler

In September, Reese Jameson ('72 BA) informed *UTA Magazine* by e-mail that Larry Dowler was overlooked in last issue's "Catching up with UTA's Olympians" segment. Better late than never, here's the Dowler dossier.

Hometown: Fort Worth

Age: 46

Lives in: Fort Worth

Family: Married with a son and a stepdaughter.

UTA career: Earned a B.S. in biology in 1979 and a teaching certificate in 1997. He was inducted into the Athletic Hall of Honor in 1998.

Occupation: Embarking on a teaching career after spending time in the Marines and the private security business. He's currently substitute teaching in Birdville and Keller.

Olympic career: Finished ninth in the 100-meter breaststroke for the United States at the 1976 Olympics in Montreal.

Most vivid Olympic memory: "It definitely would be walking into the stadium during the opening ceremonies. Being able to watch the two people run in and light the flame was very exciting."

mavnotes

HAYES NAMED FULL-TIME COACH. **Jim Hayes** has been named full-time coach of the Movin' Mavs wheelchair basketball team. In part-time duty, Hayes led the team to five national championships while also serving as director of UTA's Office for Students with Disabilities. **Diane Hengst** has replaced Hayes as director. . . . **UTA TO HOST 2001 SLC MEET.** UTA will host the 2001 Southland Conference Outdoor Track and Field Championships May 12-14 at Maverick Stadium. UTA last hosted the meet in 1992. The Lady Mavericks will be vying for their fourth consecutive SLC outdoor title. . . . **WALKER SETS KILLS**

RECORD. Volleyball captain **Trisha Walker** set a school record for kills in a match with 35 against Lamar University last fall at Texas Hall. Walker, an outside hitter, broke the record of 34 set by **Amber Pack** in 1999 also against Lamar. Walker earned All-Southland Conference first-team honors last season. . . . **HOME HOOPS NOW BROADCAST.** Maverick basketball fans can now hear live play-by-play of home games. UTA broadcast communication majors are providing audio of men's and women's home games via the Internet at broadcastamerica.com and on Channel 98 of AT&T Broadband of Arlington. To access the games, visit www.uta.edu/athletics and click on the link provided. As in past years, road games will continue to be broadcast on the Internet and Channel 98.